augmentation and upgradation during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period keeping in view that there would be spurt of cargo traffic over the next five years;

(b) if so, the concrete measures and steps Government is considering to take and the amount to be involved; and

(c) by what time the overhauling of major ports would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Under the Eleventh Five Year Plan, which covers the period from 2007-2012, the capacity of Major Ports is planned to be enhanced to 1016 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to cater to a projected traffic of 708 MTPA. Major Ports have identified projects covering the entire gamut of activities, namely, deepening of channels/berths, construction and reconstruction of berths/jetties, floating jetties, rail and road connectivity projects, procurement, upgradation and modernization of equipment and other demanding schemes in order to meet the capacity requirement. The Government has also put in place a scheme for private sector participation in Major Ports for handling bulk, break bulk and multipurpose and specialized cargo,warehousing and public storage facilities, dry docking and ship repair facilities. To make the project bankable, Government has also issued a new Model Concession Agreement (MCA). It takes into account, *inter alia,* investor's concerns, in addition, all the 12 Major Ports have formulated Port Business Plan, with a 20 years perspective as well as Action Plan for 7 years period with a view to transforming them into ports with world class facilities suited to the requirement of future economy of India. The total proposed outlay for the Eleventh Plan period for the Major Ports is Rs. 17551.24 crores of which the Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) component is Rs. 2056.98 crores. Private sector investment is anticipated to the tune of Rs. 36868.24 crores.

Upgradation of roads in Gujarat

2762. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that road connecting the Union Territories near Gujarat are not upgraded to National Highways;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government intends to upgrade the Abu roads; and

(d) if so, the time by when these are likely to be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (d) The declaration of more State Roads including the roads connecting the Union Territories near Gujarat and other State Roads as National Highways, at present, is not a priority for the Government. The existing National Highways system of about 66,754 km itself has deficiencies in many respects such as inadequate pavement crust, poor geometrics and drainage, weak and narrow bridges etc. and there is a need to concentrate on the development of existing NH network.

Manned space flight to moon

2763. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to launch a manned space flight to moon;